



## LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR ABEL MALDONADO

For Immediate Release: September 10th, 2010

Contact: Erin Shaw

[Erin.Shaw@ltg.ca.gov](mailto:Erin.Shaw@ltg.ca.gov); (916) 203-1278

### **Acting Governor Abel Maldonado Signs Legislation To Free Billions In Federal Funds For School Districts**

*Acting Governor Maldonado and Governor Schwarzenegger partner as executive team to expedite distribution of funds*

Demonstrating his commitment to partnering with Governor Schwarzenegger to expedite the state's business, Acting Governor Abel Maldonado today signed SB 847 and AB 185 to allocate nearly \$2 billion in much needed federal funds to school districts statewide. Before departing the state, Governor Schwarzenegger sent a letter to legislative leaders requesting the bills be sent to his office to be expedited. Acting Governor Maldonado signed the bills while he was coordinating state response efforts after a catastrophic explosion and fire in San Bruno, California.

"I would have been proud to honor and celebrate the passage of this critically needed legislation in a ceremony today. Instead, I had to sign these bills in the midst of a horrific tragedy. Coordinating the best recovery resources is my main focus, so I signed these bills on the ground in San Bruno to ensure these much needed funds are expedited to our classrooms as quickly as possible" said Acting Governor Maldonado.

"I want to make clear that these funds are intended to go directly into the classroom to help students, and I will be a watchdog on how they are distributed to ensure they are not used improperly for staff raises or district administrative costs. This financial boost is specifically for safeguarding jobs and rehiring displaced classroom workers whom our children directly benefit from. Make no mistake, by signing this bill I am personally engaged and will be closely monitoring the use of these funds and will make public any abuse of these resources."

SB 847, authored by President Pro Tem Darrell Steinberg (D-Sacramento), will appropriate \$1.2 billion in federal Education Jobs Fund dollars to school districts in California. In August of this year, President Barack Obama signed an initiative that contained a total of \$10 billion for a new Education Jobs Fund to help protect education jobs across the country as school districts weather the national recession. On August 13, 2010, California was the first to apply for the funds, and with the signing of SB 847, the Department of Education will be authorized to expedite the distribution of the funds to school districts.

"Under the Governor's leadership, California was the first state in the nation to submit the Education Jobs funding application to the U.S. Department of Education so that this funding would

reach our schools quickly,” said Secretary of Education Bonnie Reiss . “Since getting elected the Governor has fought to ensure that California receives its fair share of federal dollars, and is pleased that these federal funds are being expedited by Acting Governor Maldonado support California’s children in the classroom.”

Assembly Bill 185, authored by Assemblymember Joan Buchannan (D-Alamo), will appropriate \$416 million in federal ‘school improvement funds’ for K-12 schools aimed at turning around low-performing schools, and will allocate \$488 million of the remaining State Fiscal Stabilization Fund (SFSF) Recovery Act funding for state schools, colleges and universities.

The money distributed to the school districts, as authorized by both bills, will go directly into the classroom and will not be used to fund district administrative costs.

###